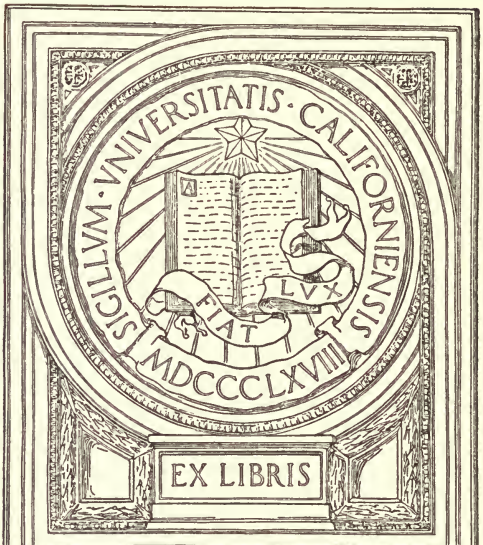
E
710
M2


SIGILLVM · VNIVERSITATIS · CALIFORNIENSIS
FIAT LVX
MDCCCLXVIII
EX LIBRIS

E710
M2

Protection

101

WHY THE FARMERS SUFFER

THEIR BEST CUSTOMERS ARE IDLE OWING TO THE BAD GOVERNMENTAL POLICY OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

GOVERNOR M'KINLEY'S ADDRESS

TO THE FARMERS OF KNOX COUNTY—SOME DEDUCTIONS FROM STATISTICS ON THE EFFECTS OF THE PROTECTIVE PRINCIPLE APPLIED TO AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS—THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND WHY THE FREE SILVER DOCTRINE WILL NOT IMPROVE IT.

MR. CRITCHFIELD AND MY FELLOW-CITIZENS: It gives me very great pleasure to meet and greet the citizens of Knox County in the city of Canton and at my home. I am glad to welcome my old comrades of the Grand Army, my fellow-citizens who are engaged in agricultural industries, and my fellow-citizens of all occupations who are here assembled this morning. Your meeting demonstrates that you have a keen interest in the public questions which are now engaging the people of the United States, and that you want this year, as you have always wanted in the past, to vote for those principles and those policies which will achieve the greatest good and the highest welfare to the country. I am glad especially to meet the farmers of Knox County, for the farmers of the United States are the most conservative force in our citizenship and in our civilization [applause], a force that has always stood for good government, for country, for liberty, and for honesty. [Great applause.] Whatever the farmer is suffering to-day is because his competitors have increased in numbers, and because his best customers are out of work. [Applause and cries of "You are right."] I do not know that we can decrease the number of your competitors, but with the adoption of a true American protective policy we can set your best customers to work. [Tremendous cheering, and cries of "Hurrah for McKinley."]

We have suffered in our foreign trade and we have suffered in our domestic trade. The farmers have suffered in their export trade, and they have likewise suffered in the home market. Under the Republican tariff law of 1890 we imported in 1893 over 111,000,000 pounds of wool, valued at over $13,000,000. In 1895, under the Democratic tariff law, we imported 248,000,000 pounds of wool, valued at $33,770,000. Nearly $20,000,000 worth more of wool were imported under the Democratic tariff law than under the Republican tariff law in 1894. The imports of woolen goods in 1894 amounted to $16,809,000, and in 1895 to $57,494,000. From the reports of the Treasury Department at Washington we find that there were 47,273,000 sheep in the

M26237

United States in 1892, valued at $125,909,000. On January 1, 1896, there were 38,298,000 sheep in the United States, valued at $65,000,000—a decrease of 9,000,000 in the number of sheep and of $60,000,000 in value. Two million two hundred thousand dollars' worth more of shoddy was imported under the Democratic tariff law than under the Republican tariff law. In woolen goods the difference is more than $50,000,000 in favor of the foreign manufacturer and against the domestic producer. The total loss in these three items to the American wool-grower and the wage-earners in American woolen factories is more than $62,000,000.

Is it any wonder, my fellow citizens, that sheep husbandry is no longer profitable? So with other agricultural products. During the last seventeen months of the Republican tariff law there were imported into this country 140,000 tons of hay, and during the first seventeen months of the Democratic tariff law there were imported 373,000 tons. The Wilson law gave the foreign producers a market for 233,000 tons more than they had enjoyed in the last seventeen months under the Republican tariff law. This loss exceeds $2,000,000.

The total wheat, rye, barley, oats and corn crops for 1895 amounted to 3,556,900,000 bushels. The total of this product exported was 132,364,000 bushels, or a little less than four per cent. of the total product annually, and more than ninety-six per cent. was consumed at home. The great bulk was consumed by your own fellow citizens, your own natural consumers and customers. In 1891–2 we exported $1,420,000,000 worth of agricultural products. In 1895–6, the first two years under the Democratic tariff law, we exported $1,124,000,000 worth. We exported, therefore, $319,000,000 worth less in the two years under the Democratic tariff law than in the two years under the Republican tariff law. Depression in agriculture has always followed low tariff legislation. It was so after the tariff of 1846; and it has been so under the tariff of 1894.

On December 2, 1851, President Fillmore, in his message to Congress of that date, affirming the condition of the country, and especially the effect of the tariff legislation upon the interests of the American farmer, said:

"The values of our domestic exports for the last fiscal year, as compared with those of the previous year, exhibit an increase of $43,646,322. At first view this condition of our trade with foreign nations would seem to present the most flattering hope of its future prosperity. An examination of the details of our exports, however, will show that the increased value of our exports for the last fiscal year is to be found in the high price of cotton which prevailed during the last half of that year, which price has since declined about one-half. The value of our exports of breadstuffs and provisions, which it was supposed the incentive of a low tariff and large importations from abroad would have greatly augmented, has fallen from $68,701,921 in 1847 to $26,051,373 in 1850, and to $21,848,663 in 1851, with a strong probability, amounting almost to a certainty, of a still further reduction in the current year. The aggregate values of rice exported during the last fiscal year, as compared with the previous year, also exhibit a decrease amounting to $460,917, which, with a decline in the values of the exports of tobacco for the same period, made an aggregate decrease in these two articles of $1,156,751."

The policy which dictated a low rate of duties on foreign merchandise, it was thought by those who promoted and established it, would tend to benefit the farming population of this country by increasing the demand and raising the price of agricultural products in foreign markets. The foregoing facts, however, seem to show incontestably that no such result has followed the adoption of this policy.

Then in his message a year later he said:

"The prosperity and wealth of every nation must depend upon its productive industry. The farmer is stimulated to exertion by finding a ready market for his surplus products and benefited by being able to exchange them, without loss of time or expense of transportation for the manufactures which his comfort or convenience requires. This is always done to the best advantage where a portion of the community in which he lives is engaged in other pursuits."

Mr. Buchanan, in his message to the Thirty-fifth Congress, speaking on the same subject, said:

"In the midst of unsurpassed plenty in all the productions and in all the elements of national wealth we find our manufactures suspended, our public work retarded, our private enterprises of different kinds abandoned and thousands of useful laborers thrown out of employment and reduced to want. The revenue of the government, which is chiefly derived from duties on imports from abroad, has been greatly reduced, while the appropriations made by Congress at its last session for the current fiscal year are very large in amount."

This is a description of the condition of the country under the low tariff law of 1846, and no better description could be written of the condition of the country under the tariff law of 1894. [Applause.] Can the farmer be helped by free coinage of silver? [Cries of "No, no, no." No] forever no, my fellow citizens. [Cries of "Hurrah for McKinley."] He cannot be helped because, if the nominal price of grain were to rise through an inflation of the currency, the price of everything else would rise also and the farmer would be relatively no better off than he was before. [Cries of "That's right, major."] He would not get any more real value for his grain than he gets now, and would suffer from the general demoralization which would follow the free coinage of silver. You cannot help the farmer by more coinage of silver; he can only be helped by more consumers for his products. You cannot help him by free trade, but as I have shown he can be hurt and seriously hurt by the free introduction of competing products into this country. Better a thousand times enlarge the markets for American products than to enlarge the mints for the silver product of the world! [Tremendous applause and cries of "You are right."] You might just as well understand now that you cannot add value to anything by diminishing the measure of the value with which the thing is sold or exchanged. [Great cheering and cries of "Hurrah for McKinley."] If you can increase the value by lowering the measure of value, and you want to benefit the farmer, then make the bushel smaller, the pound lighter, and declare a legal dozen less than twelve. [Great laughter.] The home market is the best friend of the farmer. It is his best market. It is his only reliable market. It is his own natural market. He should be protected in its enjoyment by wise tariff legislation, and this home market should not be permitted to be destroyed by lessening the demand for American labor and diminishing the pay of American workmen, and thereby diminishing the demand for agricultural products. [Applause.]

The sugar industry should be cultivated and encouraged in the United States. Diversify the products of agriculture, and thus you will have additional employment for your land. The only way to help the farmer is to increase the demand for his farm products. This can be done by preserving a home market to him, and by extending our markets, which we did in 1892, 1893, and 1894, under the reciprocity provisions of the tariff law of 1890. [Great cheering.] The best consumers for the American farmer are those at home. They consume eighteen times as much of the products of the American farm as the foreign consumer. Their earning power has been cut off in the past two years so that it makes our home market less desirable. Prosperity of manufactures is inseparable

from the prosperity of agriculture. Set all our wheels in motion, set all our spindles whirling, set all our men at work on full time, start up the idle workshops of the country, bring back confidence and business, and the farmer will at once feel the influence of the greater demand for his products and in the better prices he would receive. [Great applause, and cries of "You are right."] He wants to be protected by wise tariff legislation from the competition of the other side; and then he wants the mines and mills and factories of his own country humming with busy industry, employing well-paid workmen who can buy and consume his products. When he has got consumers he wants his pay for what he sells in such unquestioned coin that he will know it is good, not only to-day, but will be certain to be good every day of the year and in all countries of the world. [Long and enthusiastic applause.]

Free silver will not cure over-production nor under-consumption. [Laughter.] Free silver will not remove the competition of Russia, India, and the Argentine Republic. This competition would remain if you would coin all the silver of the world. Free silver will not increase the demand for your wheat or make a single new consumer. You don't get consumers through the mints. [Great laughter, and cries of "No, no."] You get them through the factories. [Cries of "That's right."] You will not get them by increasing the circulation of money in the United States. You will only get them by increasing the manufacturing establishments in the United States. [Tremendous cheering, and cries of "Hurrah for McKinley."] "Plant the factory by the farm," said Jackson, and that is as wise now and as applicable now as when the hero of New Orleans said it years ago. The best thing now is for the farmer to have a factory for his neighbor. [Laughter and applause.] It would be better to have a factory alongside of you than to have another farm alongside of you. [Laughter, and cries of "Yes."]

I have no fear of the farmers—the most conservative, the most considerate, and the most sturdy of our splendid civilization. They are not easily misled. They have no aim in politics but an honest one. In 1892, when free trade was the battle cry of our opponents, it was said then that the farmers would follow this heresy, but it was not so. It was the cities which followed the free-trade heresy in the country. [Cries of "That's right."] The country voted for protection, while the great cities did not. So this year they will vote against free trade and free silver; they will vote for a home market and for a dollar as good as gold in every mart and market of the world. [Great cheering.]

I thank you, my fellow-citizens, for this call. It is a great compliment to have had you travel this long distance to bring to me messages of good will and congratulations. Old Knox County, in every contest in which I have been engaged, has been firmly and unfalteringly my friend; and it will give me sincere pleasure to meet you all personally. [Long and continued applause.]—From *Canton Repository.*

PUBLISHED
BY THE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
NEW YORK.

RETURN TO: CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
198 Main Stacks

LOAN PERIOD 1 Home Use	2	3
4	5	6

ALL BOOKS MAY BE RECALLED AFTER 7 DAYS.
Renewals and Recharges may be made 4 days prior to the due date.
Books may be renewed by calling 642-3405.

DUE AS STAMPED BELOW.

MAY 03 2002		
U.C. BERKELEY SENT ON ILL		
JUL 05 2005		
3 MONTHS LOAN		

FORM NO. DD6
50M 3-02

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Berkeley, California 94720–6000

DEC 15 1961
20 May'64LM

REC. CIR. JAN 31 '81
DEC 03 1988
LD 21-100m-12,'43 (8796s)

Gaylamount
Pamphlet
Binder
Gaylord Bros., Inc.
Stockton, Calif.
T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES
C005369622

N26237
E710
M2
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY